

# LIBRARY LETTERS

September 2006  
Volume 3, Number 1

*Library.wlu.edu*



**Interlibrary Loans Have Increased Dramatically in the Last Year**

## Notes from the University Librarian



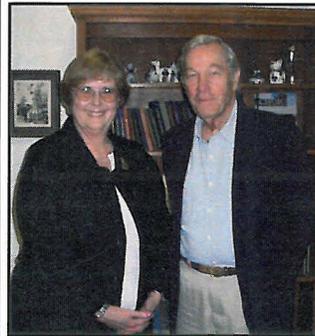
Welcome back to campus for the 2006/07 academic year! I hope your summer was pleasant and productive, whether your goal was rest, fun, research, or all three.

As you'll see from the contents of our newsletter, we expect this to be a busy year for the Library with a number of positive changes on the horizon. Over the summer, space on the main floor of Leyburn was renovated to provide merged service space for ITL and the computing Help Desk. The move puts this important technical support group within a few yards of the Library's Reference Desk and will, we trust, improve cooperation and synergy between the Library and Computing in addition to offering added convenience for faculty and students.

In May 2006 the Board approved the hiring of Pfeiffer Partners Architects for the next stage of the feasibility study for the renovation of the Leyburn Library (which will celebrate its 30<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2009). Pfeiffer, within the scope of the ongoing work on the University Master Plan, is presenting plans and estimating costs for three possible options: a renovation with no expansion; a renovation with a modest expansion, addressing only library needs; and a larger renovation/expansion that would bring other programs into the building, such as University Computing and academic/teaching/office space. All of the options include an information commons, a "cyber café," and twenty years growth for print collections, among other improvements. Pfeiffer began its work in June and has already presented some exciting possibilities. We are encouraged by the interest and enthusiasm for the Leyburn project demonstrated thus far by members of the W&L community.

*(Continued next column)*

Roger Mudd '50 will be speaking on behalf of the Friends of the Library during Homecoming/President Inauguration weekend, on October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2006. When he arrives on campus he'll be bringing with him a number of volumes from his fine collection of modern Southern literature, which he has generously decided to donate to the W&L Library. Mr. Mudd's books and papers will reside in Special Collections, for use by scholars and students for generations to come. Please put this opportunity to meet and talk with Roger Mudd, a proud W&L alumnus, on your calendar – and all best wishes for the new academic year!



*Merrily E. Taylor  
University Librarian*

## Pfeiffer Partners Studying Leyburn Renovation Options

Pfeiffer Partners, an architectural firm that specializes in educational institutions, is studying options for the renovation of Leyburn.

An interim step in the possible integration of University Library and University Computing is the move of the Help Desk into Leyburn this summer. Construction is underway to alter the facilities formerly used by ITL (Instructional Technology Lab) to accommodate Help Desk personnel and ITL. Having all these highly effective technology experts readily accessible to the computer users will enhance the image of both the Library and Computing.



Merrily Taylor, University Librarian, and Tom Contos, University Architect, gave a tour of Leyburn to Pfeiffer Partners personnel in June.

Pfeiffer Partners will present their findings to the Board of Trustees in October.

ARCH.  
378.755  
W3171161

v. 3  
2006/07  
no. 1

## Leads, Slugs, and Dingbats

Dave Clinger '55, the instigator of the Washington hand press restoration, has kindly donated several of his type cabinets filled with metal type and ornaments. Included is a collection of W&L type and ornaments used to print the *Ring-tum Phi* in its early days.



Dave Clinger '55 and Yolanda Merrill, Humanities Librarian, admire the new cabinets.

In the spring, a group of students and volunteers helped Clinger print the new Board of Trustees' Oath Book, to be bound in leather by humanities librarian Yolanda Merrill.

The Friends of the Library donated the funds to have permanent cabinets built to house the type collection.

## Farrar Newspaper Collection Featured in Roanoke Times News Story



At the instigation of Journalism professor Doug Cumming, the *Roanoke Times* did a feature story on the "old" newspapers donated to Leyburn Library by Fred Farrar '41.

Dr. Farrar has been collecting newspapers for over fifty years and began donating them to Leyburn in 2003. Kevin Kittredge, feature writer, and Eric Brady, photographer, spent an afternoon at Leyburn looking at the antique newspapers and preparing the story, which ran on the front page of the *Extra* section on July 5.

A lover of history, Dr. Farrar told Kittredge that he chose W&L for his donation because he knew the University "would always teach history". Professor Cumming uses the documents extensively in his journalism courses as well.

The collection includes the initial reporting of such momentous American historical events as the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the fall of the Alamo. The oldest newspaper "reports" the death of Henry II of France in 1559. Dr. Farrar promises the "best is yet to come".

We can't wait!



## Dave Badertscher Sees Katrina's Aftermath While Attending ALA Convention in NO



This summer Dave Badertscher, Head of Technical Services at Leyburn Library, and his wife, Nancy, had the opportunity to participate in a Katrina-related clean up project as part of the American Library Association's Annual Conference in New Orleans. The ALA Conference was the first major convention of any kind held in New Orleans since Katrina. Librarians from around the country wanted to lend a helping hand. Two days were designated as "Librarians Build Communities." Over 900 librarians signed up to take part in various activities around the city.

Dave, Nancy, and eight other librarians worked most of Friday afternoon, June 23, in ninety-five degree heat to help gut a house in the ravaged 9<sup>th</sup> ward.

They wore masks, goggles, and full-body suits to protect against black mold and other airborne contaminants. The neighborhood was all but deserted. Although earlier work parties had removed most personal belongings from the house, they still ran into ruined articles of clothing, old dishes, faded photographs, and even some stray Christmas ornaments.



It was an exhausting and sobering experience. The librarians saw literally whole square miles of destruction. Those hearty volunteers who go into the 9<sup>th</sup> ward and other hard-hit areas day after day are the true heroes of the whole Katrina disaster.

## Friends Donate to the Library

Part of the mission of the Friends is to "support the academic mission ...which strengthen the Library's collections and ...stimulate the intellectual life of the community." At its Spring meeting, the Board voted to provide permanent cabinets for the Washington Press type collection (see article above) and to create a fund for the restoration of books from Special Collections.

## FOL Update

As of June 30, 2006, the Friends of the Library has 165 Charter members and has received over \$30,000 in dues and donations.

The next Friends event is scheduled at 2 p.m. October 21, during Homecoming Weekend. *The Friends Present* their first guest speaker: Roger Mudd '50. If you would like more information or would like to join, contact the Friends Coordinator at 540/458-8642 or by email at ocallaghank@wlu.edu.